

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 145

By Ferguson

A RESOLUTION relative to the recent coal ash spill in Roane County.

WHEREAS, on December 22, 2008, earthen walls surrounding one of the retention areas at the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) Kingston Fossil Plant failed, sending 5.4 million cubic yards of coal ash coursing into area waterways and onto several private properties; and

WHEREAS, this accidental discharge ranks as one of the worst coal ash spills in American history; estimates for the total cost of cleaning up the spill range from \$525- \$825 million; and

WHEREAS, although TVA has acted promptly to begin remediating the spill, Roane County residents are understandably concerned about the long-term effects from the coal ash, which is a byproduct of coal combustion; and

WHEREAS, from a health standpoint, coal ash contains potentially harmful contaminants; and

WHEREAS, residents are also concerned about the coal ash spill's long-term effect on the area's economy and culture; and

WHEREAS, it is a time-honored adage that difficult times serve to bring people closer together, and both parties should grasp this opportunity to forge a closer, more productive relationship between the Tennessee Valley Authority and the people of Roane County; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that in the spirit of freely disseminating information about how TVA's decision-

making affects the public, the Tennessee Valley Authority is urged and encouraged to meet on a more regular basis with citizens in communities affected by the Roane County coal ash spill.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in order to be better prepared for future emergencies, TVA is urged and encouraged to maintain a vendors' list of local citizens and businesses qualified to perform remediation at sites where TVA operates facilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the interest of assisting the area's recreational economy, TVA is urged and encouraged to establish a committee composed of all stakeholders to develop and enhance tourism and recreation in the area affected by the Roane County coal ash spill.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this General Assembly commends TVA for its plan of action and expeditious response in beginning remedial efforts at the Roane County coal ash spill.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this General Assembly expresses its appreciation to TVA for the important role the authority plays in Tennessee's communities, including providing jobs for thousands of Tennesseans, and urges communities with a TVA facility to work cooperatively and in good faith with the authority.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this General Assembly recognizes and appreciates the thousands of Tennesseans who work with dedication and skill as employees of TVA.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Chair and the Chief Executive Officer of the Tennessee Valley Authority.